

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

AF-10 HA-05 ARA-14 EUR-12 AID-05 ACDA-12 /132 W

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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 USUN NEW YORK 01173

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OVP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF MARCH 30 MEDIA REACTION.

2. RHODESIA. AP (AM) FROM SALISBURY REPORTS RHODESIAN TROOPS CLASSIFIED WITH GUERRILLAS. THE GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE SAYS 19 "NATIONALISTS INSURGENTS" AND 5 WHITE, 1 BLACK OF ITS OWN FORCES WERE KILLED. AP ADDS, "THE GOVERNMENT LOSSES RANKED AMONG THE BIGGEST SINGLE SECURITY FORCE TOLL ANNOUNCED IN ONE DAY SINCE THE START OF THE FIVE YEAR GUERRILLA WAR...THE CASUALTIES WERE SEEN AS ANOTHER MAJOR BLOW TO THE MORALE OF THE 263,000 WHITES...GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HERE PLAYED DOWN THE NEW INCURSION. A MILITARY SPOKESMAN MERELY SAID TROOPS CONTACTED 'A NUMBER OF GUERRILLAS AT A BASE CAMP IN EASTERN RHODESIA, SOUTH OF UMTALI'... ANOTHER AP DISPATCH OUT OF LONDON REPORTS ON THE BRITISH PRESS CRITICISM OF AMB. YOUNG DUE TO HIS REMARKS IN THE ZIMBABWE TIMES. "ONE SAID MR. YOUNG'S STATEMENTS ON AFRICA WERE PRIMARILY DESIGNED TO ENDEAR BLACK VOTERS TO PRESIDENT CARTER." THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

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MAKING AN ANALOGY TO A BULL IN A CHINA SHOP WROTE, "THE BULL COULD WELL PLEAD THAT HE WAS OUT OF HIS ELEMENT AND THE HAVOC UNPREMEDITATED. MR. YOUNG, BY CONTRAST, IS CONVINCED THAT HE HAS THE MISSION TO RESTORE FREEDOM, PEACE AND PLENTY TO AFRICA AFTER EUROPEAN COLONIALIZATION." THE DAILY MAIL NOTED IN AN EDITORIAL: "THE BRITISH ARE HEARTILY SICK OF BEING INSULTED. WE GET IT FROM THE THREE-

HALFPENNY SOAP OPERA AT THE U.N., WE GET IT FROM INTERNATIONAL HUSTLERS WANTING TO WORK THE OLD ANTI-IMPERIALIST ROUTINE. WE DO NOT EXPECT TO GET IT FROM A MEMBER OF THE U.S. CABINET."...CSM CARRIED A UPI REPORT FROM MAPUTO ON THE CLASH BETWEEN RHODESIAN FORCES AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. DISPATCH SAYS A RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN "CALLED REPORTS OF A MAJOR INCURSION AND HEAVY-FIGHTING IN EASTERN RHODESIA'S DENSELY WOODED MOUNTAINS AND VALLEY EXAGGERATED." ...ANOTHER UPI DISPATCH REPORTS "RESIDENTS OF EASTERN RHODESIA TODAY REPORTED QUIET IN THE REGION, DESPITE CLAIMS BY GUERRILLAS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S THAT FIERCE BATTLES WERE RAGING IN THE AREA."

2. NAMIBIA. AP (ARTHUR L. GAVSHON) REPORTING FROM LONDON WRITES "FIVE WESTERN NATIONS AGREED WEDNESDAY TO NEW PROPOSALS FOR PEACE IN SWA IN A MOVE TO KEEP SOUTH AFRICA FROM IMPOSING ITS OWN SETTLEMENT...(A BRITISH SOURCE SAID) "IT WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE SA GOVERNMENT IN CAPE TOWN AND TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SWAPO IN LUSAKA ANY TIME NOW." THE REPORT ADDS, "DETAILS OF THE REFINED WESTERN PROPOSALS WERE NOT DISCLOSED. BUT INFORMANTS SAID THEY FOCUS ON THE NUMBER AND DEPLOYMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS ALLOWED IN NAMIBIA WHILE U.N. TROOPS AND CIVILIANS SUPERVISE TRANSFERRING POWER TO THE NAMIBIANS."

3. THE HORN. AP DISPATCH FROM CAIRO REPORTS THAT AT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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ARAB LEAGUE OF NATIONS ANNUAL MEETING THERE WAS A CALL FOR QUICK WITHDRAWAL OF "SOVIET AND CUBAN" MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM ETHIOPIA AND ALSO URGED A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE ETHIOPIAN SOMALI CONFLICT. THE LEAGUE ALSO DECIDED TO SEND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA REFUGEES IN DIJIBOUTI. LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL MAHMOUD RIAD IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THE CONFERENCE PLEDGED UNSPECIFIED FINANCIAL AID WHICH SOMALIA CAN USE IN PROCURING MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR DEFENSE AGAINST ANY ATTACK FROM ETHIOPIA... NYT (CHRISTOPHER WREN) REPORTING ON THE SAME SUBJECT "THE RESOLUTION TODAY DID NOT MENTION THE SOVIET UNION OR CUBA BY NAME, BUT LEAGUE SOURCES SAID IT WAS DIRECTED AGAINST THEM...ONE ARAB OFFICIAL CONCEDED THAT THE DEMAND FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF CUBAN AND SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL WAS LARGELY RHETORICAL. A STRONGER DETERRENT WAS THE PROMISE TO SEND WEAPONS OR MONEY TO SOMALIA IF IT WERE INVADED. MR. RIAD SAID THE AMOUNT OF AID WOULD BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN SOMALIA AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ARAB LEAGUE."... WASHPOST (MURREY MARDER) WRITES ABOUT U.S. - SOMALIA RELATIONS AND MOOSE'S MEETING. HE WRITES THAT GROUNDWORK FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS LAID BUT "A TERRIBLY SENSITIVE ISSUE REMAINS, ADMINISTRATION SOURCES ACKNOWLEDGED YESTERDAY

(MARCH 29)." HE CONTINUES, "THE SPECIAL OBSTACLE IS THE REQUIREMENT PUBLICLY LAID DOWN BY PRESIDENT CARTER THAT A RENEWED COMMITMENT NOT TO DISHONOR THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES OF EITHER ETHIOPIA OR KENYA IS NECESSARY, BEFORE WE WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS WITH THEM ECONOMIC AID OR DEFENSIVE ARMS. SUPPLIES." PRESS SPOKESMAN JOHN H. TRATTNER SAID "NO DECISION WAS REACHED ON SUPPLYING AMERICAN MILITARY AID" DURING MOOSE MEETING WITH BARRE. MARDER ADDS, "IF THE CARTER CONDITIONS FOR AIDING SOMALIA

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FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

ARE REJECTED BY SIAD BARRE, SOME DIPLOMATS BELIEVE SOMALIA MAY BE TEMPTED TO TURN BACK TO THE SOVIET FOLD." ...CSM EDITORIAL COMMENTING ON CUBA'S VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHILE CUBA GETS ALL THE HEADLINES FOR ITS INTERVENTION IN AFRICA ADDS "THE U.S. ALSO OUGHT TO BE GIVEN PAUSE BY WHAT CUBA IS DOING AT HOME. THOUSANDS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS SHOULD NOT REMAIN OUT OF MIND JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE OUT OF SIGHT." THE EDITORIAL WONDERS WHY NO ONE AROUND THE WORLD IS DENOUNCING SUCH VIOLATIONS.

4. PRESIDENT'S TRIP. NYT (TERENCE SMITH)REPORTING FROM BRASILIA, ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S REMARKS AT THE WELCOMING CEREMONY IN BRAZIL'S CAPITOL REPORTS, "MR. CARTER SPOKE OF BOTH HUMAN RIGHTS AND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION." CONTINUING, HE WRITES, "MR. CARTER'S DISCUSSIONS HERE ARE LIKELY TO BE AMONG THE MOST DIFFICULT OF THE TRIP. THE PRESIDENT'S 22 HOUR STOP IN VENEZUELA WAS GENERALLY CORDIAL, BUT HE AND MR. PEREZ FENCED POLITELY IN THEIR

PUBLIC REMARKS ABOUT THE ROLES OF THE RICH AND POOR NATIONS  
IN NARROWING THE GAP WITH THE THIRD WORLD." SMITH REPORTS  
THE PRESIDENT "STRESSED THAT THE THIRD WORLD HAD A ROLE TO  
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PLAY AS WELL. AMONG OTHER THINGS, HE ARGUED THAT THE OIL-  
PRODUCING NATIONS, SUCH AS VENEZUELA, SHOULD TAKE UP SOME  
OF THE SLACK." ...WP IN THE ARTICLE ON SOMALIA AND US  
RELATIONS ALSO COMMENTED ON PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO NIGERIA IN  
SAME ARTICLE, "MOOSE MET YESTERDAY WITH THE NIGERIAN  
EMBASSY CHARGE D'AFFAIRS TO TRY TO UNTANGLE A DISPUTE OVER  
NIGERIA'S ARREST OF AN AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN BEFORE CARTER'S  
ARRIVAL IN LAGOS...IT WAS UNCLEAR, SOURCES SAID, WHETHER  
NIGERIA WILL ACT BEFORE CARTER'S ARRIVAL ON THE IMPRISON-  
MENT OF AMERICAN BUSINESS MAN LOUIS LEFEVRE."...UPI IN  
BRASILIA REPORTS, "PRESIDENT CARTER TODAY ABANDONED THE  
CAUTIONS THAT HAVE MARKED HIS VISIT TO BRAZIL AND MADE AN  
UNEQUIVOCAL CALL FOR SUPPORT IN 'THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN  
RIGHTS' -- WINNING AN OVATION FROM THE BRAZILIAN CONGRESS."  
...HERALDTRIBUNE EDITORIAL ABOUT U.S. POLICY NOT SATISFYING  
EITHER SIDE IN THE AFRICAN CONFLICTS, WRITES, "THIS MIGHT  
SUGGEST THAT THE POLICY IS THE CORRECT ONE FOR AN OUTSIDE  
BUT INTERESTED POWER. BUT IN FACT THE U.S. HAS ENDORSED  
THE AVOWED AIMS OF ETHIOPIA AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT...IN  
ANY CASE, THE CARTER POLICIES HAVE NOT YET BROUGHT PEACE  
TO THESE TROUBLED PORTIONS OF AFRICA, NOR WON MUCH PRESTIGE  
FOR THE U.S. PERHAPS MR. CARTER CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT  
THESE PROBLEMS AT FIRST HAND: PERHAPS THE PRESENT DILEMMAS  
CAN BE REGARDED AS ONLY A FIRST STAGE TOWARD SOME ULTIMATE-  
LY RATIONAL SOLUTION. BUT THE PRESIDENT CANNOT START OFF  
ON HIS JOURNEY WITH ANY GREATER SENSE OF ACTUAL  
ACCOMPLISHMENT."

5. MIDDLE EAST. NYT (MOSHE BRILLIANT) WRITES FROM  
JERUSALEM, THAT THE ISRAELI CABINET APPROVED WEIZMAN  
FLYING TO CAIRO MARCH 30 IN EFFORT TO RESTART PEACE  
NEGOTIATIONS. HE REPORTS THAT AT THE CABINET MEETING  
BEGIN RECEIVED AN EXPECTED VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. HE  
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CONTINUES, "BUT DESPITE THE SHOW OF CONFIDENCE, CRACKS  
APPEARED IN THE GOVERNING COALITION AS SOME DEPUTIES IN  
PRO-GOVERNMENT PARTIES JOINED THE OPPOSITION IN BACKING  
PRESIDENT CARTER ON SOME POINTS... EARLIER, IN THE DEBATE,  
CRITICS AGREED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S CRITICISM OF MR.  
BEGIN'S POSITION THAT THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL'S

RESOLUTION 242 OF 1967, DID NOT SPECIFICALLY APPLY TO THE WEST BANK AREA...THEY ALSO CALLED FOR A SUSPENSION OF JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN THE OCCUPIED AREAS DURING PEACE NEGOTIATIONS." ...WASHPOST (GREENWAY) REPORTS, "THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT DIFFERS SERIOUSLY WITH BEGIN ON THE QUESTION OF TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS ON THE WEST BANK AND IN THE GAZA STRIP...THERE APPEARS TO BE A GROWING IF NASCENT MOVEMENT FOR GREATER CONCESSIONS ON THE PART OF ISRAEL. THE 300 YOUNG RESERVE OFFICERS WHO SO ANGERED THE GOVERNMENT RECENTLY WITH THEIR PUBLIC APPEAL FOR FLEXIBILITY HAVE NOW OBTAINED 10,000 SIGNATURES ON THEIR PETITION AND THEY PLAN A DEMONSTRATION IN TEL AVIV ON SATURDAY."... CSM (FRANCIS OFNER) REPORTS FROM JERUSALEM, "DESPITE THE SETBACKS, MR. BEGIN IS CLEARLY STILL THE DOMINATING FIGURE, HOLDING THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT. BUT HIS IMAGE IS DENTED." ...NYT (WILLIAM FARRELL) IN A NEWS ANALYSIS FROM JERUSALEM, REPORTS, "IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT A FULL ISRAELI MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANESE SOIL IS NOT IMMINENT." WRITING OF THE ISRAELI ATTACK IN SOUTHERN LEBANON FARRELL COMMENTS, "EVERYONE HERE EXPECTED REPRISAL ACTION, BUT FEW ISRAELIS EXPECTED ONE OF SUCH DIMENSIONS. FROM THE SCOPE OF THE ISRAELI ATTACK THERE WAS REASON TO BELIEVE IT WAS BASED ON A MILITARY PLAN THAT HAD BEEN PREPARED LONG AGO...'THE BIG QUESTION IS HOW WE GET OUT OF THERE' WROTE TEDDY PREUSS IN THE LABOR PARTY NEWSPAPER DAVAR, 'ISRAEL'S COMMITMENT THERE COULD WELL

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FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

LEAD TO VIETNAM-LIKE PROBLEMS FOR US" ... NYT (NICHOLAS

GAGE) WRITES FROM THE WEST BANK THAT "INTERVIEWS WITH SEVERAL DOZEN PALESTINIANS INDICATED THAT THESE TWO EVENTS SHATTERED ANY HOPE THAT ISRAEL MIGHT RELINQUISH THE WEST BANK, OR THAT THE U.S. MIGHT PUT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO DO SO. THE EVENTS ALSO DESTROYED A BELIEF OF THE PALESTINIANS THAT THE ARAB COUNTRIES WERE SUPPORTING THEM IN THEIR STRUGGLE...MAYOR FREIJ OF BETHLEHEM, WHO WAS THE ONLY CONSERVATIVE TO BE RE-ELECTED IN THE LAST WEST BANK MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, ESTIMATED THAT BEFORE THE EVENTS OF THE LAST FEW WEEKS, 55 PERCENT OF THE WEST BANK INHABITANTS FAVORED THE P.L.O. NOW HE PUTS THE FIGURE AT 95 PERCENT."... BALTSUN (MICHAEL PARKS) REPORTS, "PLANS ARE BEING MADE TO SEND MOSHE DAYAN, THE FOREIGN MINISTER, TO WASHINGTON TO REOPEN TALKS WITH THE U.S. ON THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. ISRAEL'S FEAR REMAINS THAT WASHINGTON WILL PUT FORTH A PEACE PLAN OF ITS OWN WITHOUT CONSULTATION." ...CSM (JOSEPH HARSCH) WRITING A COMMENTARY PIECE SAID, "THE EVENTS OF MARCH 21, 22 AT THE WHITE HOUSE WERE SEEN BACK IN ISRAEL AS BEING AN ATTEMPT TO DRIVE MR. BEGIN OUT OF OFFICE. BUT THIS WAS NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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CORRECT...ONE HIGH WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL SAID: 'WE STILL THINK THERE IS ENOUGH STATESMANSHIP IN HIM TO MAKE PEACE, IF ONLY WE CAN JOLT IT OUT OF HIM'. MR. CARTER DELIVERED THAT 'JOLT'...NOW WE WILL SEE WHETHER THE JOLT WAS HARD ENOUGH. IT HAS ALREADY REOPENED A VIGOROUS DEBATE IN ISRAEL OVER BEGIN POLICIES...THE GENERAL ASSUMPTION AROUND THE WHITE HOUSE AND STATE DEPARTMENT IS THAT THE EXERCISE IN PLAIN-SPEAKING OF MARCH 21/22 HAS ALREADY DONE MORE GOOD THAN HARM AND THAT IT MAY WELL HAVE REOPENED THE ROAD TO SERIOUS MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS."...UPI (PM) DISPATCH REPORTS PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT AND ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER EZER WEIZMAN MET FOR TWO HOURS TODAY BUT FAILED TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK IN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI MOVES TOWARD A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT." ...ANOTHER UPI (PM) DISPATCH REPORT "FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER SAID TODAY THAT DESPITE RECENT CONFLICTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST THE 'BEST OPPORTUNITY THAT HAS EVER EXISTED' FOR PEACE IS NOW AVAILABLE." ...AP REPORTING ON ARAB LEAGUE CONFERENCE IN CAIRO WRITES, "THE ARAB LEAGUE MEETING EMPOWERED SUDAN'S PRESIDENT JAAFAR EL NUMAIRI TO HEAD A DELEGATION TO THE SO CALLED REJECTIONIST NATIONS -- SYRIA, LIBYA, IRAQ, ALGERIA AND SOUTH YEMEN (ALL BOYCOTTED THE MEETING) --AND TRY TO PERSUADE THEM TO STOP DENOUNCING THE EGYPTIAN ISRAELI CONTACTS...THE IDEA FOR A SOLIDARITY DELEGATION EMERGED, SOURCES SAID, AFTER THE CONFERENCE AGREED THAT THE SPLIT IN ARAB RANKS WAS PROVIDING ISRAEL WITH AN EXCUSE TO CLAIM THAT THE ARABS DO NOT REALLY WANT PEACE...THE CONFERENCE ALSO VOTED TO SEND

AN UNSPECIFIED AMOUNT OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO ISRAELI  
INVADED SOUTHERN LEBANON AND TO EXTEND THE MANDATE OF THE  
SYRIAN DOMINATED ARAB LEAGUE PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN  
LEBANON ANOTHER SIX MONTHS." ...NYT (WREN) WRITING ABOUT  
THE SAME SUBJECT REPORTS, THE COUNCIL DEFERRED UNTIL ITS  
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FALL MEETING A REQUEST BY THE PLO FOR A REAPPRAISAL OF  
ARAB RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IT WAS NOT LIKELY NOW  
BECAUSE OF EGYPT'S WARM RELATIONS WITH THE U.S."  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** OVIP, SOPN, US, (YOUNG, ANDREW)  
**To:** LAGOS  
**Type:** TE  
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